

his prince's government, with a common veil and cover of God's word, whose followers must not be judged but by private men's expositions. God defend you from such a ruler, that so evil will guide you."

The Commons, nevertheless, returned to the charge in subsequent sessions with such insistence that in 1587 Mr Cope and three other members were sent to the Tower for moving or supporting a bill to enact the "Book of Discipline," and in 1593 Mr Morrice was arrested by the sergeant-at-arms, and imprisoned in Tutbury Castle, for moving bills against the oath *ex officio* and illegal imprisonment in consequence of refusal to take it.

Besides petitions to Parliament and Council, the Puritans

had made ample use of the printing press for the ventilation of their grievances and the advocacy of their tenets.

They were not the men to suffer in silence, and the tyranny of the High Commission only embittered and emboldened

their testimony against their persecutors. They were not deterred by stringent press laws from giving vent to the rancour which deprivation and imprisonment provoked.

The statute of 1581, which decreed the penalty of death against the writer or printer of any book "containing false, seditious, and slanderous matter, to the defamation of the queen's

majesty," was directed against papist plotters. But it was sufficiently general to make it very risky for the extreme

sectaries to disown in print the queen's ecclesiastical supremacy, and two years later a couple of Brownist preachers,

Coppin and Thacker, were convicted under it and hanged.

Puritan pamphleteers nevertheless continued to pillory the archbishop and his Commission in the name of justice and true religion, and in 1586 the Star Chamber, at Whitgift's

instigation, attempted to gag these angry critics by an ordi

nance limiting the right to set up printing
presses to London,
Oxford, and Cambridge, and prohibiting the
printing of any
book without the sanction of the archbishop or
the Bishop of
London. The ordinance only aggravated the
evil it was
intended to cure. The more bellicose of the
Puritan writers
set up a secret press at Moulsey in Surrey, and
outwitted the
archbishop's detectives for several years by
moving from place
to place. With this secret movable battery
they kept up,
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